THE ARITHMETIC MEAN AND THE "MIDDLE" VALUE OF CERTAIN METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.[1]

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The maximum daily temperatures observed at Glasgow Observatory over a period of 48 years have been taken, and the distribution of these about their "middle" value calculated for each day of the year. It is found that the distribution is not normal, but that from March to October the extremes of high temperature lie much farther from the middle value than the extremes of low temperature, the scattering in September extending 10 degrees (F) farther on the positive side than on the negative. In the winter, on the contrary, the scattering extends 8 degrees farther on the negative than on the positive. When all the days of the year are taken together, this lack of symmetry disappears. The difference "Middle temperature − Mean temperature" is found to vary from +0.5 degree in February to −0.75 degree in August.—*J. S. Di[nes]*.

[1] Proc., Roy. soc. Edinburgh, 1916–1917, 37: 210–214.

NEW ZEALAND STANDARD TIME.

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The present arrangement whereby the standard civil time in New Zealand differs from Greenwich mean time by $11^h\ 30^m$ was adopted on the suggestion of Sir James Hector in 1868, before the general system of zone time was introduced. The council of the Wellington Philosophical Society has recently taken the matter into consideration, and has resolved to urge upon the Government the desirability of making New Zealand time exactly 12 hours in advance of Greenwich. New Zealand is so happily situated that it would be possible by this simple alteration to secure the advantages of a time system moderately in advance of solar time, and to bring the time into conformity with the international arrangement. As there is no extreme variation in the length of the day at different seasons, it is proposed to put the clock forward by half an hour, once for all.